mentioned towns during the last five years; and

(c) if not, what are the details of new prone lines released so far for the above towns in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Waiting list of telephones as on 30.6.93 for the towns are as under:

1.	Nalgonda	987
2.	Bhongir	72
3.	Miryalguda	243
4.	Kodad	371
5.	Choutuppal	64

As per 8th Plan objective, the waiting period for telephone connection is to be reduced to two years in large telephone system and telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas by the end of the 8th Plan period (1992—97). The expansion of the exchanges are being planned to meet the above objective accordingly.

(b) No, Sir. New phones have been installed to the extent of connectable capacity.

(c) Details of new phone lines released during the last five years are as under:

1.	Nalgonda	222
2.	Bhongir	240
3.	Miryalguda	462
4.	Kodad	50
5.	Choutuppal	89

Amount sanctioned by communication department for construction of new buildings

73. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNCATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount that communication department has allocated for the constructions of buildings in the year 1993-94;

(b) what is the amount allocated state-wise; and

(c) what are the names of district headquarters in Himachal Pradesh where the Post Office Buildings are under construction alongwith the names of places for which Post Master General, H. P. Circle has requested to the Central Government to provide funds for construction of buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Rs. 250.09 crores has been allocated for the construction of buildings in 1993-94.

(b) The allocation of funds is made Circle-wise. The details of amount allotted Circle-wise are furnished in the enclosed statement-I. (*See* below).

(c) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Circle-wise details of amount allotted for the construction of buildings in the year 1993-94.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Amount allotted.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.33
2.	Assam	2.17
3.	Bihar	29.31

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Amount allotted
4.	Delhi (Postal circle only)	0.45
5.	Gujarat	24.46
6.	Haryana	5.37
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3.90
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.11
9.	Karnataka	5.31
10.	Kerala	12.63
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11.18
12.	Maharashtra	22.73
13.	North Eastern	6.81
14.	Orissa	9.81
15.	Punjab	12.85
16.	Rajasthan	7.42
17.	Tamil Nadu	20.69
18.	Uttar Pradesh	15.11
19.	West Bengal	7.68
20.	Calcutta Telephone Distt.	5.18
21.	Madras Telephone District.	4.79
22.	Other Functional Units such as Maintenance and Projects Circles of the Deptt. of Telecom.	22.80
	TOTAL:	250.09

Statement-II

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS

Names of District Headquarters in Himachal Pradesh where the Post Office Buildings are under construction.

1. Rekong Peo

Names of places for which Postmaster General, Himachal Pradesh Circle has requested to th Central Government to provide funds for construction of buildings.

1. Shimla
2. Dalhousie
3. Rohru
4. Saharah Br.
5. Nalagarh
6. Paunta Sahib

7. Pekong Peo
8. Nadaun
9. Chauntra
10. Daramsala
11. Keylong
12. Kaza
13. Kullu
14. Khera
15. Banjaru Tissa
16. Sundernagar
17. Teara
18. Tauni Devi
19. Mohra
20. Nurpur
21. Karsog
22. Ghumarwin
23. Chowki Minar
24. Bakloh
25. Bilaspur
26. Hamirpur.

Tempering of metres by MTNL officials

74. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL officials have been apprehended by police for tempering with the metres;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the beneficiaries of this offence are regular international telephone callers; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A few cases have been detected in Delhi and Bombay, where meter readings were manipulated for the benefit for subscribers and meter wires were found disconnected. Two officials of MTNL, Delhi and five officials of MTNL, Bombay have been apprehended by the CBI and these officials have been placed under suspension.

(c) This will be known only after the CBI complete their investigation.

(d) Action as per law will be taken by the CBI in respect of outsiders and disciplinary action will be taken against the officials of MTNL as per rules.

Privatisation of telephone system in the country

75. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering privatization of telephone system in the country;